

XXXIII.—*List of a small Collection of Birds made in the Vicinity of Lahej, in Southern Arabia.* By RICHARD HAWKER, F.Z.S.

WHILE waiting at Aden and preparing for an expedition into Somaliland, I made a hurried visit to Lahej, where I was able to stop only for two days (October 25th and 26th, 1897). During that time, however, I was fortunate enough to secure examples of four species of birds which do not appear in Colonel Yerbury's list of Aden birds (Ibis, 1896, pp. 13–41), viz. the Lanner (*Falco feldeggii*), the Ruff (*Machetes pugnax*), the Greenshank (*Totanus canescens*), and the Pintail Duck (*Dafila acuta*). In the following list of the sixteen species represented in my collection I have followed the arrangement of Colonel Yerbury's paper.

1. MELIERAX POLYZONUS (Rüpp.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1896, p. 15.

Two specimens: an adult (base of bill dark orange, tip black; feet dark orange; iris brown) and an immature bird (bill dark horn-colour; feet yellow; iris pale yellow).

These birds, in their flight, reminded me very much of Harriers in the way in which they quartered the ground when hunting.

2. FALCO FELDEGGI Schl.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 389 (1874).

A male, not quite adult. "Base of bill pale blue, tip dark; feet yellowish white; iris brown."

3. MEROPS CYANOPHRYS (Cab. & Heine); Yerbury, t. c. p. 19.

Two specimens: male and female. "Iris brick-red."

This Bee-eater seemed to prefer the vicinity of trees to hunting in the open.

4. MEROPS PERSICUS Pall.; Yerbury, t. c. p. 19.

Two males. "Iris brick-red."

5. LANIUS LAHTORA Sykes; Yerbury, t. c. p. 21.

A male. "Bill and feet black; iris brown."

This bird was rather common in the thorn-jungles around Lahej.

6. ARGYA SQUAMICEPS (Cretzschm.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 23.
A female. "Bill and feet light ochre ; iris brown."

I found these birds among the cotton-bushes. They were in families of five or six, and seemed to prefer running to flying.

7. BURNESIA GRACILIS (Cretzschm.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 25.
A male. "Iris and eyelids light hazel."

8. PYCNONOTUS XANTHOPYGIUS (H. & E.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 23.

A female. "Bill and feet black ; iris dark brown ; eyelids white."

9. PASSER EUCHLORUS (Licht.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 27.
A male. "Iris light hazel."

This bird was associated with *Passer domesticus*. I shot it out of a flock along with several of the latter species.

10. PASSER DOMESTICUS (Linn.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 28.
Two specimens. "Iris brown."

11. PYRRHULAUDA MELANAUCHEN (Cab.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 29.

A male. "Bill slate ; iris brown."

I saw many of these birds along the camel-track between Sheik Othman and Lahej. They were very tame, and were feeding on the grain which had fallen from the camel-loads.

12. CENA CAPENSIS (Linn.) ; Yerbury, t. c. p. 30.
Two males. "Bill and feet red ; iris brown."
I saw only one small flock on the stubble-land.

13. PTEROCLURUS EXUSTUS (Temm.) ; Ogilvie Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 12 (1893).

Pterocles exustus, Yerbury, t. c. p. 30.

Three specimens. "Bill and feet slate-colour ; iris brown."

14. *MACHETES PUGNAX* (Linn.).

A female. "Bill black; feet yellowish brown; iris brown."

This bird was shot on the mud of an irrigated field.

15. *TOTANUS CANESCENS* (Gm.).

No. 5, ♀. Lahej, October 25th, 1897. "Bill black; feet greenish grey; iris brown."

This bird was found feeding in the mud of an irrigated field along with other Waders.

16. *DAFILA ACUTA* (Linn.); *Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxvii. p. 270.

Two females. "Base of bill grey; feet and toes grey, webs black; iris dark brown."

XXXIV.—*On the final Collections of Birds made by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., in Nyasaland.* By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S. *With Prefatory Remarks by P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.*

I. PREFATORY REMARKS, by P. L. S.

[THE present paper contains Capt. Shelley's list of the species represented in the final collections made by Mr. Whyte for Sir Harry Johnston in Nyasaland, previously to his return home last year. The specimens, altogether 264 in number, are referred by Capt. Shelley to 132 species. Of these none are new to science, but 24 are additional to the species already recorded in Capt. Shelley's previous papers on Mr. Whyte's birds.*

* The titles of these papers are as follows :—

- (1) List of Birds collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., in Nyasaland. By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S., with a Preface by P. L. SCLATER. *Ibis*, 1893, p. 1, pls. i.-iii.

[Report on 430 specimens, referred to 134 species, of which 12 were described as new.]

- (2) Second List of Birds collected by Mr. Alexander Whyte, F.Z.S., in Nyasaland. By Captain G. E. SHELLEY, F.Z.S. *Ibis*, 1894, p. 1, pls. i., ii.

[Report on 1030 specimens, referred to 205 species. Of these 9 were new, and 102 were not represented in the first collection.]